appreciated that the PDS plays an important role in keeping price rise in check and reaching subsidised essential commodities even to rural areas, and to specially vulnerable groups in ITDP areas. The specially useful rule of PDS during times of drought and other natural calamities also cannot be ignored.

Rs. Assistance from State Governments and the public for Financing Railway projects

1325. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to get assistance from the State Governments and the Public for financing railway projects in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether State Government agencies like State Industrial Development Corporations have jointly executed projects like in Maharashtra, if so, whether the same pattern is proposed to be adopted in other States also; and

(c) by when the details of the scheme would be finalised and implemented and whether State Governments would be asked to submit their priority projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Assistance for financing Railway projects from State Government and Public is considered only on initiative of the State Government in very selected cases after the scheme is got approved by them from the Union Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission. However, in case of new Konkan Railway line project, the four concerned State Governments are likely to contribute funds.

(c) City Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) an agency of the State Government of Maharashtra is sharing 67 per cent cost of Mankhurd-Belapur new rail line project. It is upto State Governments to decide whether to adopt this pattern for sharing cost of such railway projects in their States.

Priority to Konkan coastal railway and projects in the Border areas of Kutch in Gujarat

1326. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to accord priority to Konkan Coastal railway and projects in the border areas of Kutch in Gujarat as stated by the Minister and reported by the Press in Ahmedabad during his election campaign;

(b) whether conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj railway line from meter gauge to broad gauge is under Government's consideration to provide direct link to Kutch district; and

(c) whether the Defence Ministry has submitted a proposal to link Kutch district with the rest of the country in view of its strategic position, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Priority is proposed to be given only to West Coastal railway project between Roha and Mangalore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Complaints of corruption against Railway staff

1327. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints of corruption received against Railway staff during the last three years and what is the number of gazetted and non-gazetted staff against whom action has been taken, year-wise;

(b) whether a campaign is being launched to cleanse the Railways of the corrupt and the inefficient; if so, the details thereof; and